

HOUSE RESOLUTION 300  
By Kent

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mr. Geoffrey A. Wolpert  
for laudable service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as innovative entrepreneurs and community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Geoffrey A. Wolpert, who is a highly successful restaurateur, former realtor, board member for various volunteer agencies, and community activist in Gatlinburg, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, born February 6, 1956, in Marion, South Carolina, Geoffrey Wolpert graduated from the University of South Carolina in May 1978 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management; one month following his graduation, he went to work for Steaks Sophisticated, Inc., the franchisee for The Peddler Restaurants in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wolpert married Sylvia P. (Pat) Wolpert on May 13, 1984; while maintaining his position with Steaks Sophisticated in Gatlinburg, he also sold approximately four million dollars of real estate from 1983-85; and

WHEREAS, Geoffrey Wolpert served in a variety of positions with Steaks Sophisticated, honing his expertise as a business planner and financial analyst and ultimately acquiring a controlling interest in 1985; over the next two years, he sold all of the Peddler Restaurants with the exception of the one in Gatlinburg; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wolpert renovated and modernized The Peddler Restaurant in Gatlinburg and continues to operate it; in July of 1995, The Park Grill, designed, constructed and operated by Geoffrey Wolpert, opened. A \$3.6 million dollar grand log structure, the restaurant is located on the parkway at the entrance to The Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Gatlinburg; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wolpert's boundless energy, expertise, and response to challenges find outlets in many service areas; he was a founding Board member of Leadership Sevier and a graduate of its first class, a graduate of the 2002 Class of Leadership Knoxville, President of the Dr. Robert Thomas Foundation Board of Directors, a member of the Board of Directors of temple Beth El, and a member of the Board of Directors of BankFirst, now known as BB&T Bank; and

WHEREAS, Geoffrey Wolpert continues to serve his community and region as a member of the Board of Governors of Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts; a member of the Board of Directors of the East Tennessee Foundation; a member of the Steering Committee and Board for "Nine Counties. One Vision, " a regional initiative for Knox County and the eight contiguous counties; and founding President of The Gatlinburg Gateway Foundation, an organization that seeks to advocate positive action and civic responsibility to achieve an environmentally sensitive, culturally enriched, and economically prosperous gateway community to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wolpert's keen business sense, innovative management techniques, commitment to community improvement, and undeniable leadership qualities have earned him the unqualified respect of his peers; he received the 2000 Volunteer of the Year Award from the Gatlinburg Chamber of Commerce and the 2000 Vocational Service Award from the Gatlinburg Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS, Geoffrey Wolpert epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; his ability to conceive and implement a vision using his own skills and abilities and effectively marshalling those of others is awe-inspiring; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wolpert is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Pat, and children, Jana, Jacob, and Jordan; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Geoffrey Wolpert for his dedication to his community, his region, and the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and

commend Mr. Geoffrey A. Wolpert for his unparalleled business acumen, his commitment to civic improvement in his community and region, and his meritorious service to the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we thank him for his continuing and inspiring civic leadership over the years and extend to him our best wishes for much happiness and every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.